



# ALLYSON Y. SCHWARTZ

## U.S. REPRESENTATIVE 13TH DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA



U.S. Congresswoman Allyson Y. Schwartz, 13th District of Pennsylvania

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**What is the number one issue you are most concerned with?**

- ☐ **Jobs and the economy**
- ☐ **Health insurance costs**
- ☐ **The war in Iraq**
- ☐ **High home heating prices**
- ☐ **Homeland security**
- ☐ **Education**
- ☐ **Rising federal deficit**
- ☐ **Recovery from Hurricane Katrina**
- ☐ **Environment**
- ☐ **Gasoline prices**

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Dear Friend,

It is a privilege to represent you in Washington, D.C. You sent me to Congress to make sure that the federal government is both accountable and responsible, and that is what I have worked to do during the past year, and will continue to do so in 2006.

During 2005, Congress took up many important issues affecting the families of Philadelphia and Montgomery County, including homeland security, health care, Social Security, the War in Iraq, and education. On these issues, and many more, I have worked to ensure that your voice is heard in Congress, and that is what I intend to do in the coming year. You can be certain that I will continue to fight for the families of the 13th district.

As this year closes, I wanted to give you a brief update on some of the issues I worked on over the past year.

### **Homeland Security**

I have fought to ensure that our police, firefighters and other first responders have the funds necessary to protect our communities. I have strived to bring greater attention to the importance of port and transit safety. I have also called for Congress to put forth a greater focus on homeland security by implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and to move forward to ensure that we have an effective intelligence-gathering network.

### **Veterans Employment and Respect Act**

In March I introduced a bipartisan plan to help support our veterans and their families. My initiative, the Veterans Employment and Respect Act would help ease the financial burdens soldiers and their families' face as a result of their service, by offering tax credits to businesses hiring our soldiers returning from service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Already over 160 Democrat and Republican Members of Congress have signed on in support of this plan.

### **Transportation Funding for Philadelphia and Montgomery County**

I secured \$42 million in the national highways bill for transportation and infrastructure projects throughout the 13th district. These funds will go to improve our streets, help to lessen commute times, and work to bring jobs and economic development to our communities.

For more information on the projects near your community, [please click here.](#)

### **Protecting Our Communities**

Earlier this year, I supported two important crime bills. The first bill, the Gang Determine and Community Protection Act, provides strong new powers in the fight against gang activity that threatens the safety of our neighborhoods. Endorsed by the National Fraternal Order of Police, this bill sends a clear message to violent criminals that gang activity will not be tolerated.

I also voted in support of the Secure Access to Justice and Court Protection Act, which increases federal penalties for the assault, murder, or kidnapping of judges or their immediate family.

It has truly been an honor to work on your behalf over the past year. I especially want to thank those of you who took the time to contact my office, or myself directly, to let me know your views and thoughts on the issues affecting our country. As I work to meet the needs and priorities of our community and the nation, please know how much I appreciate having the benefit of your views.

For more information on my work, please visit my [Web site](#) or [sign up to receive regular email newsletter updates.](#)

I wish you and your family a healthy and prosperous new year.

Sincerely,

Congresswoman Allyson Y. Schwartz

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